

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for detecting errors in image reading from image data of an image which has been read, said method comprising the steps of:

compressing the image data;

comparing values associated with the compressed image data and reference values previously determined in connection with an error in image reading; and

determining existence of an error in image reading based on said comparing.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

using an image reader to read the image and obtain said image data.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

storing data of the image read by the image reader.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining existence of an error comprises judging that there is an error in image reading when data size of said compressed image data is smaller than a data size previously determined as said reference value.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining existence of an error in image reading includes a step of judging that there is an error of image reading when a compression ratio of said compressed image data is larger than a compression ratio previously determined as said reference value.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining existence of an error in image reading includes the steps of:

selecting a reference value corresponding to said image data read out from a reference value table having a plurality of reference values previously determined in connection with errors in image reading; and

comparing said selected reference values and said read out image data after compression with each other.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said second memory includes a table having the plurality of reference values.

12. The apparatus according to 10, further comprising a transmitter for transmitting the existence of an error in image reading.

13. The apparatus according to 12, wherein said transmitter transmits a signal indicating said error to a remote location.

14. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said image reader is built into an automatic contract apparatus.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said automatic contract apparatus is one of an automatic cash machine and an automatic teller machine.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, in combination with said automatic contract apparatus.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said automatic contract apparatus is one of an automatic cash machine and an automatic teller machine.

18. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said image reader includes at least one of an image illumination lamp, a CCD camera, and a document handling device.